



Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

Linking Birds and
People



The GCBO Mission

- Our mission is the study and conservation of birds and their habitats in and around the Gulf of Mexico.
- Our purpose is to be a catalyst for bird conservation through individual and community partnerships and the sharing of expertise and knowledge.

The Gulf of Mexico's Hemispheric Importance to Birds

Waterfowl



Shorebirds



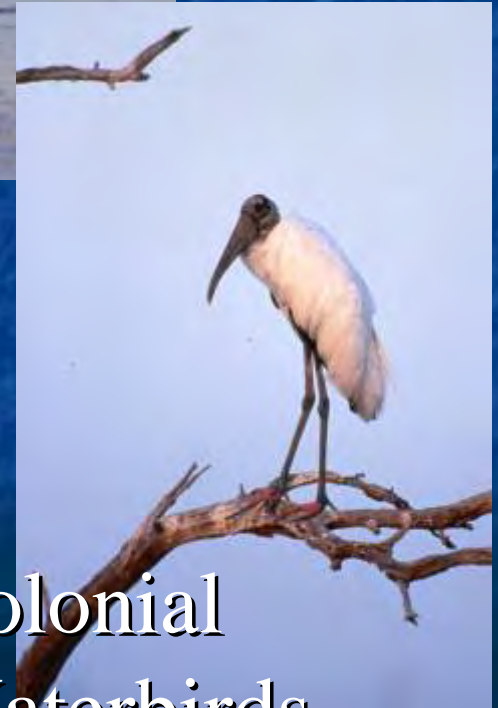
Raptors




Songbirds

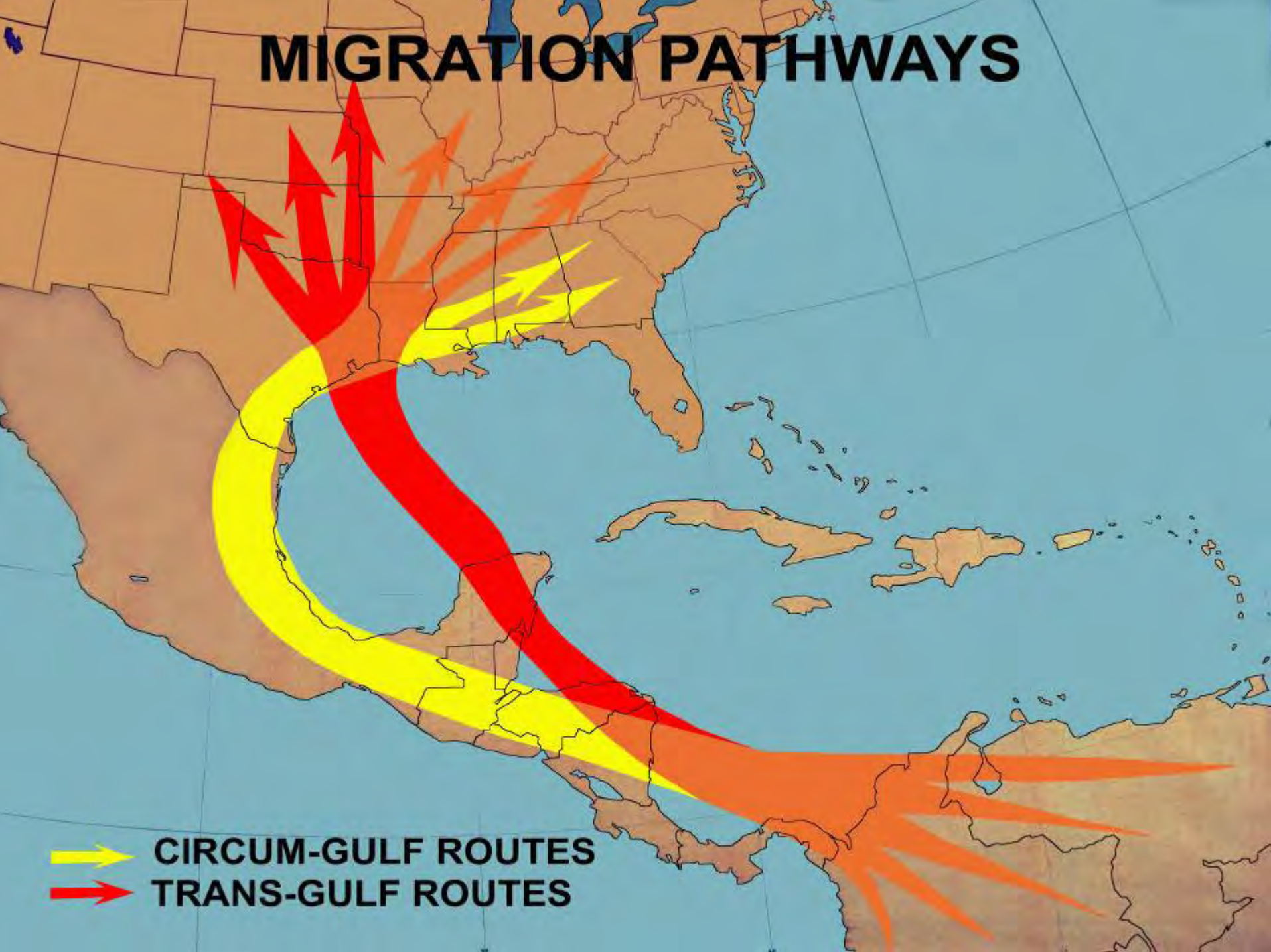


Colonial
Waterbirds



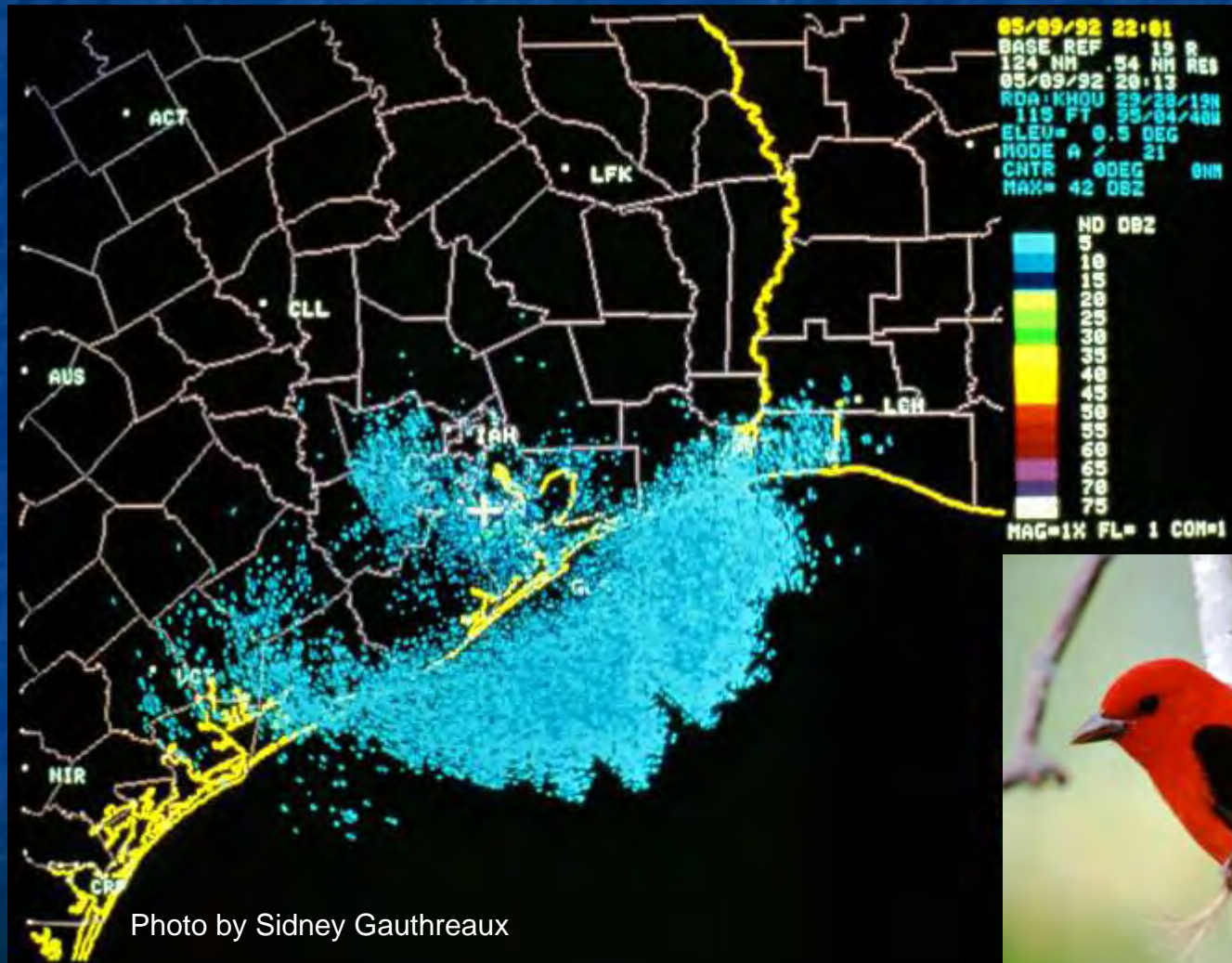
MIGRATION PATHWAYS

 CIRCUM-GULF ROUTES
 TRANS-GULF ROUTES



Coastal Stopover Habitat

Radar shows critical importance of stopover habitat



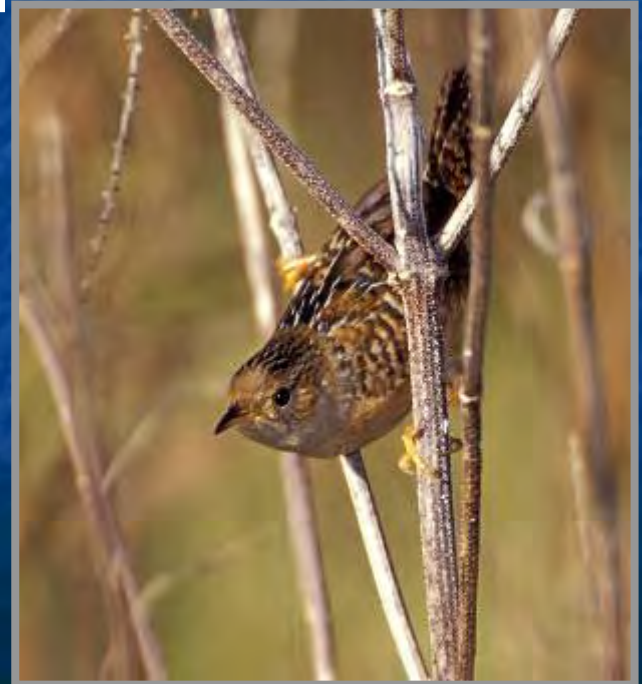
Human Impacts: Habitat Alterations

- Coastal erosion
- Urbanization and industrialization
- Large-scale tourism development
- Exotic species introductions



Three GCBO Programs

- **Land Protection**
- Education and Outreach
- Scientific Research

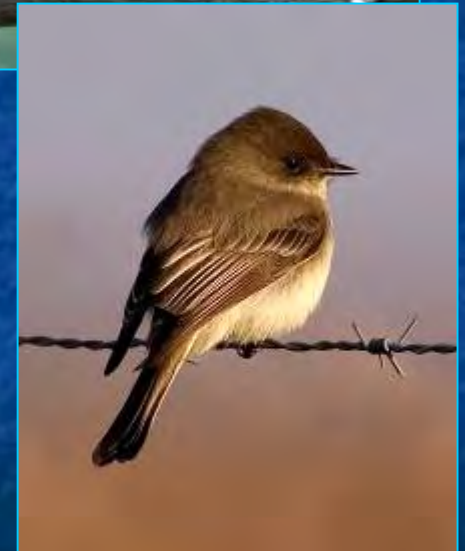
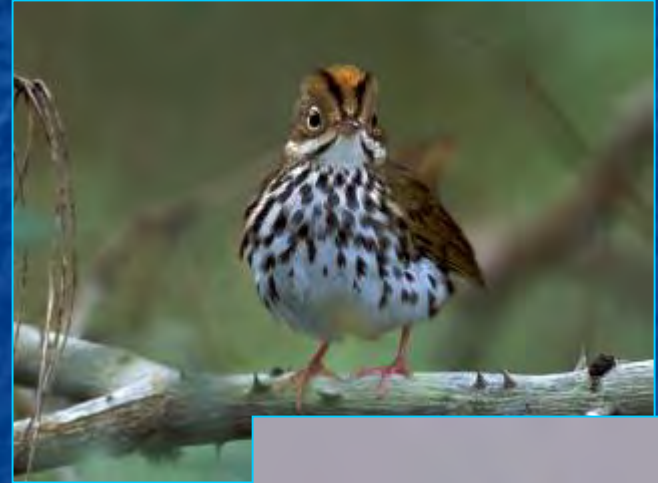
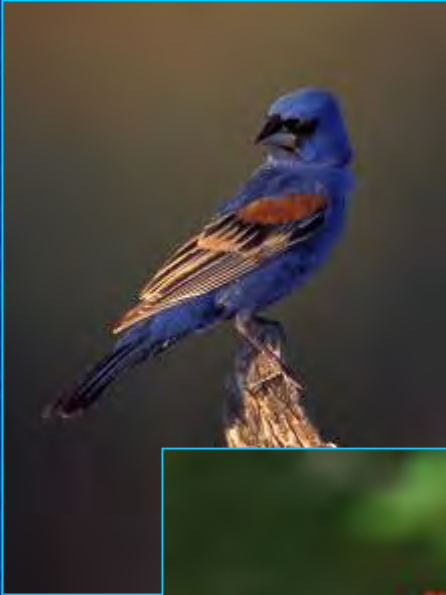




Gulf Crossings Site Partners

55 sites > 7.3 million acres

Shared among all Site Partners is a diversity of migratory birds



Nearctic-Neotropical Migrants

Site Partner Network

➤ **What is a Site Partner?**

- Public or private landowners with:
- an interest in bird conservation
- Gulf-region property of good habitat or good restoration potential
- property of importance to migratory land birds

➤ **What are the benefits for site partners?**

- Being part of a large-scale conservation network
- Sharing information among partners
- Publicity & Fundraising opportunities
- Help with on the ground projects & training

Network Activities - US



Network Activities - MX

Funding for Barbara MacKinnon, Yucatan Coordinator



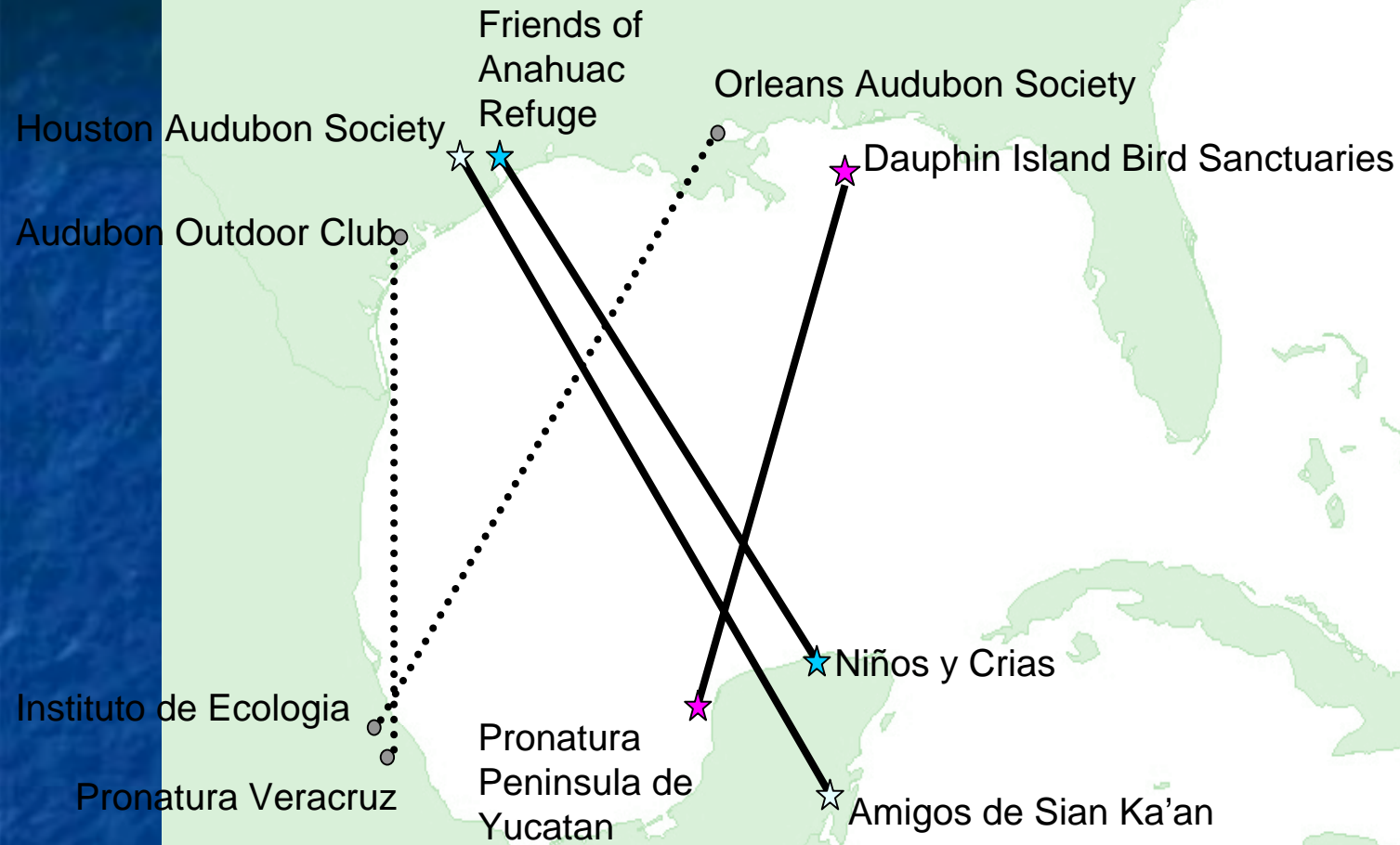
10 training workshops in Mexican coastal communities



Visitor center & observation tower construction at Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve

**Sister Site Partners:
Amigos de Sian Ka'an and
Houston Audubon Society**

Sister-Site Partnership Program



A New Way to Link Birds & People

Land Protection Program Goal:

Demonstrable Conservation

The GCBO and our sponsors have been directly involved in facilitating:



- **14 land acquisitions**
- **8 land management plans**
- **5 ecotourism planning efforts**
- **6 habitat restorations**
- **7 construction efforts for visitor access**
- **16 avian inventories, bird checklists, and annual on-site monitoring**
- **7 annual teachers workshops**

Great Texas Birding Classic

Birding with a purpose!



GCBO's Sponsors

- ConocoPhillips-Lead Sponsor for 10 Years
- Dow Chemical Company
- Houston Endowment
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service NMBCA
- The Meadows Foundation
- Reliant Energy
- ChevronTexaco
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
- Our Generous Membership

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Committed to Conserving Coastal Habitat for Birds through
Science and International Partnerships, www.gcbo.org